

# Curiosity

Early Learning Centre

Active and connected, growing for LIFE



## Statement of Philosophy



LOVEOPTIMISMCREATIVITY

## Active and connected, growing for LIFE



### OUR VISION

CURIOSITY Early Learning Centre is a place where our children and their families are, 'Active, Connected and Growing for LIFE'. Our philosophy speaks into our School's core values of Love, Optimism and Creativity, rooted in a deep understanding that because of God's love for the world and his heart for community, we are made 'one in Christ'. We value each child as equal citizens in our community, appreciating the unique differences found within each child.

Our learning environments and projects are designed to promote each child's curiosities and wonders in an inclusive space where they are supported to become confident, independent and active problem solvers with the understanding that they are valued contributors to society.

### ACTIVE

We believe that a fun, safe and supportive learning environment promotes the development of self-identity, social and emotional wellbeing and spiritual awakening.

Therefore we:

- acknowledge that God is our Creator whose love far outreaches anything we could ever do. That this love is expressed in the lives of His children and therefore everyone has the ability to accept His love and forgiveness. It is out of this realisation, that we actively seek to provide an environment where God's amazing love, creativity and blessings flow to our children and their families;
- participate in times of daily devotion including prayer, reading of the Bible and song;
- promote the social and emotional wellbeing of our children through giving attention to building the competencies of emotional literacy and offering support in the process of restoration with others;
- support children in developing resilience and a sense of agency in a shared environment; and
- offer multi-age learning experiences rather than segregating and limiting our children due to their age. We offer opportunities that speak to the child's interests and willingness to explore alongside others despite their age, showing an appreciation for each child's rhythm for growth and development.

We believe that children have the capacity to think deeply, critically and creatively which is enhanced through active and purposeful inquiry, question posing and problem solving.

Therefore we:

- support the process of learning, trusting that the journey is more important than the end result;
- model learning for understanding versus remembering, as co-constructors of knowledge;
- provide learning experiences that are challenging and support the development of higher order thinking skills;

- intentionally offer hands-on learning experiences in literacy, numeracy, gross motor, visual arts, music and dance;
- identify real life problems that concern the children and offer opportunities to consider positions of solution;
- apply the Principles and Practices of the Early Years Learning Framework; and
- take inspiration from the principles of Reggio Emilia in creating a learning environment that promotes social engagement, the co-construction of knowledge amongst learners and celebration of the rights and unique qualities of every child.

## CONNECTED

We believe that children are resourceful, innovative and have the right to use their initiative.

Therefore we:

- create spaces for learning where relationship is built between experience, materials and the children's thinking. These spaces are built on emotional and multi-sensorial experiences and will evolve over time;
- design spaces in collaboration with the children that integrate inside and outside learning experiences;
- offer daily opportunities for our children to have a 'voice' and guide their learning experiences through participation, conversation and reflective observation by our educators;
- give children the time, space and resources to present their learning through endless means of expression; and
- celebrate with the children on their achievements and give opportunity for them to present their thinking and experiences to their peers.

We believe that children are active and informed citizens who desire to build strong connections with others.

Therefore we:

- listen for opportunities for children to collaborate together on areas of interest to promote social engagement;
- execute the rights of our children to have the ability to share their points of view through weekly 'Circle Times' where participation is encouraged by all and the skills of conversation are developed;
- use sustainable practices to encourage our children to be respectful consumers of our world's finite resources;
- promote participation in school readiness projects to support the transition of our children into life at Good Shepherd Lutheran School;
- participate in school wide events at Good Shepherd Lutheran School, including Chapels, Assembly and Parent & Friends events;
- provide opportunities for our children to build a strong attachment with Specialist and Foundation Years educators throughout the year;
- build connection with our local community (Council, Shopping Centre, Lutheran Homes and neighbours); and
- embrace the use of digital technologies to connect areas of learning and to offer a new space for socialisation sharing in a way that promotes safety and wellbeing.

We believe that our community of learners embraces not only the children in our care but the unique families that they are treasured by. Our Centre is a place where no-one is a stranger and everyone is welcome!

Therefore we:

- build an awareness of the unique position of the Kurna people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land upon which CURIOSITY is built upon;
- respect and are inclusive of all nationalities, people groups and religions within our community;
- prioritise time for enrolment, induction and transition periods which offer opportunity for families to share insights and aspirations for their child's learning journey at CURIOSITY. We



value our families' partnership and believe that this creates a strong sense of belonging and connectedness;

- offer children the opportunity to develop their cultural competence and to share that with the community of learners;
- collaborate with our families on projects connected to the interests of our children and value the exchange of expertise;
- give timely feedback and communication to our community to ensure that our relationship is strengthened and no-one is 'left behind';
- develop 'Learning Journey' folders for each child to share with their families, along with fortnightly iNewsletters and posts on our digital platform, 'Storypark'; and
- promote opportunities for informal social gatherings and liaise with FIA (Families in Action) groups that support the physical development and future direction of the Centre.

## GROWING FOR LIFE

We believe that learning must be engaging, developmental and meet individual needs.

Therefore we:

- celebrate the demonstration of the Centres core values of LOVE, OPTIMISM and CREATIVITY in the conduct of our children's interactions with their peers and CURIOSITY community;
- provide authentic opportunities for our children to develop skills within play-based experiences;
- participate in learning conversations with the child and their family regarding areas of curiosity and challenge to set goals that meet each child's unique learning journey;
- commit to families our professional best in ensuring that we add our strengths to the planning cycle within the Centre. We come with the mindset that the best climate for our children to be part of involves the educators committed to ongoing review, generating new ideas and discussing ways to improve quality, equity and children's wellbeing;
- invite others into the conversation of learning that is happening in the Centre, by making the learning visible through various modes of documentation. Documentation allows us to value the process as we see the learning unfold like a map. Documentation is a gift to the community and shows the strong connections between the children, their peers and the environment;
- connect with local Allied Services to support the whole child's wellbeing where intervention is required. We work with families and create individual plans to create the right environment and methods of learning for every child to find success;
- commit to professional learning in areas where our children require expert support. We know that our educators are lifelong learners who have a responsibility to improve their knowledge and skills. It is our hope that as we immerse ourselves in every child's 'education' that we too be educated;
- prioritise time to develop professional learning networks to ensure that our educators are working within evidence-based practices for the benefit of our children; and

We believe that children have the ability to become masters of skills and have the right to have their love for learning continuously ignited.

Therefore we:

- celebrate a growth mindset where 'mistake making' propels us towards different ways of thinking which leads to great success. We believe in the 'power of not yet';
- promote peer learning as our children display competencies and then support their peers in their learning journey;
- encourage children to see beyond what is in front of them and to challenge their thinking towards endless possibilities; and
- support our children to persist when it gets tough and to celebrate the break throughs.

